

In response, please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Communication and attached Notice to Comply dated March 11, 2003 in the above-identified application. The Examiner notes that Applicants' prior responses filed October 18, 2002 and January 21, 2003 were not fully responsive to the Restriction Requirement issued September 30, 2002 because Applicants inadvertently provided a sequence identifier for a nucleotide sequence instead of a peptide sequence when specifying the elected peptide sequence of Group I.

In response, Applicants herein reiterate their previous election of Group I and further elect the peptide of SEQ ID NO:39 as contained in the Sequence Listing submitted on November 25, 2002 in the above-identified application.

The Notice to Comply attached to the Office Communication indicated that the application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.821-1.825 (Item 1), and that the computer-readable form on file in the above-identified application does not comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.822 and/or §1.823 as indicated on the attached copy of the marked-up "Raw Sequence Listing" (Item 4). However, because no Raw Sequence Listing was received with the Office Communication and Notice to Comply, Applicants contacted Examiner Liu to determine the precise nature of the deficiencies in the application and/or its Sequence Listing so that they could be rectified.

In a telephone conversation of March 25, 2003, Examiner Liu recommended that Applicants direct their inquiries to Mr. Mark Spencer, the director of the U.S. Patent Office's Sequence Compliance section. In a telephone conversation of March 26, 2003, Mr. Spencer indicated to Applicants that no errors were present in the computer-readable form of the

Sequence Listing of the above-identified application that was submitted on November 25, 2002.

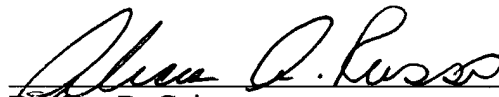
Accordingly, Applicants conclude that only Item 7 of the Notice to Comply, regarding the identification of a sequence identifier for a peptide rather than a nucleic acid, need be considered in fully responding to this Office Communication.

Because Applicants now elect SEQ ID NO:39 from the Sequence Listing presently on file in the above-identified application, no substitute paper and computer-readable Sequence Listings are provided.

Applicants believe no fee is required with this submission. Please charge any additional fee associated with this filing or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4377. Two copies of this paper are enclosed.

A copy of the Notice to Comply also is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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